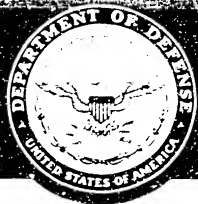


NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 1962

NO. 1944-62
OFFICIALS
51176

ACTIONS OF MILITARY SERVICES IN CUBAN CRISIS OUTLINED

Actions of the U.S. Military Services during the Cuban crisis were outlined today by the Department of Defense.

Summaries of actions by the Army, the Navy and Marine Corps, and the Air Force follow:

U. S. ARMY

U. S. Army Forces, Atlantic, was created on October 16, 1961, when Department of the Army notified the U. S. Continental Army Commander, General Herbert B. Powell, that he was designated as Army component commander to assist CINCLANT in contingency planning. As Commander-in-Chief of U. S. Army Forces, Atlantic, "CINCLANTLANT", General Powell became responsible for all Army forces under Admiral Robert L. Bennett, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic.

CINCLANTLANT's first task was to exchange plans for Army participation in CINCLANT's operations and to be prepared to implement whatever actions were required. To his headquarters at Fort Monroe, Virginia, General Powell aimed his efforts to assist in the planning task. Much in the USARLANT part of his headquarters worked on a 24-hour basis to accomplish these objectives.

Another concurrent task was to establish USARLANT Forward, co-located with ATLANT advance headquarters at Homestead Air Force Base, under Major General George D. Duncan, USA.

USARLANT forward represented General Powell on the ground and coordinated all Army activities in the base area in the southeastern United States. This small staff was to be the nucleus on which CINCLANTLANT would expand his operating headquarters. Its operational plans were put into effect.

Lieutenant General Hamilton M. House, Commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, was the designated Joint Task Force Commander under CINCLANTLANT for control of possible future joint operations. In this capacity he and his staff were involved in greatly expanded planning and supervisory missions.

Major elements of STRAD Strategic Army Corps were withdrawn from STRAD and designated for use as USARLANT forces -- altogether more than 100,000 officers and men.

ADP

All elements were put in an advanced alert status during the early days of the Cuban crisis in mid-October. Forces included Infantry, Armored and Airborne Divisions, and logistical troops.

The 1st Armored Division began moving from Fort Meade, Iowa, to Fort Stewart, Georgia, in October 11. The move required 1,100 flat cars, 1,500 other equipment cars, and 170 passenger cars carrying some 5,000 troops. A plan on request of 1st personnel of the Division moved by air to Georgia, while the remainder of the personnel moved with the Division equipment by rail.

All units began a series of intensive training exercises to maintain their combat readiness. Airborne troops participated in exercises involving battle group air movements and parachute drops while the 1st Armored Division engaged in amphibious exercises on the Florida beaches.

The 3d Logistical Command, commanded by Brigadier General Horace Davidson, was expanded into a new organization, the Peninsula Base Command, with headquarters at Opaloka Air Force Base, Florida. The mission of this command was to provide logistical and administrative support to all Army troops in the Florida area. The Peninsula Base Command was composed of medical, engineer, ordnance, transportation, boat, and terminal service units, with a strength of more than 1,000.

Army Air Defense battalions, equipped with HAWK and Nike-THEAT missiles, were moved to Florida by rail and air from points as far away as Texas and Northwestern United States. After occupying tactical positions in Florida, these units went on around-the-clock alert under the operational control of CINCPACFLT.

Alert plans were perfected for the calling of high-priority Army National Guard and Army Reserve units which might have been needed in the event assault operations were initiated. Every possible readiness action, from the informing units and finally, was taken by Army and Corps headquarters in the United States.

In preparation for possible operational missions throughout the Cuban crisis, the Army pre-positioned combat forces, established a logistical base in Florida, and intensified training of all alerted forces.

U. S. NAVY AND U. S. MARINE Corps

In October 1, 1962 forces of Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet, were engaged in normal training and upkeep throughout the western Atlantic and Caribbean areas. Vice Admiral John M. Taylor, USN, Commander, Second Fleet, embarked in USS NEWPORT NEWS (CAG-19), was at sea off Nova Scotia. Anti-submarine carriers WEST (CAG-18), ESEAN (CAG-17), and LAKE CHARLENE (CAG-16) were in the Boston Harbor area. INTERPAC (CAG-11) was at sea off New York and RANDOLPH (CAG-10) was in Norfolk. Cruisers and destroyers were engaged in local operations stretching from Newport to Guantanamo.

In the Caribbean, the g-12 missile cruiser USS DANIELA (CAG-1), six destroyers and one amphibious ship were in Guantanamo. USS RFA RFA-12 (CAG-1) and seven destroyers were in August, Florida.

Attack aircraft carriers were located as follows: USS ENTERPRISE was enroute to Norfolk, Virginia, from the Mediterranean; USS INDEPENDENCE and USS SARATOGA were in the Norfolk area.

Destroyers and submarines were in Key West. Normal air patrols and training were being carried out in Key West, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico and Guantanamo.

A regularly scheduled exchange of the Marine Battalion Landing Team in the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean was in progress.

The Atlantic Fleet Operations General Order for the period October 15-26 were as follows:

PHIBTRALEX 1-68 Amphibious Training Landing Exercise. Amphibious landing exercises and training afloat and ashore in the Vieques area, scheduled for August 27 - November 2, was still in progress, involving Amphibious Squadron 6 with the 2d Battalion of the 2d Marines embarked.

UNITAS III. Third annual ASW training exercise conducted by Commander South Atlantic Force, Rear Admiral J. A. Lyne, Jr., USN, with several South American countries during the period August 17 - December 16.

PHIBTRILEX 61 Amphibious Brigade Landing Exercise. An exercise designed to train and exercise naval forces to conduct an amphibious assault and associated naval operations from Indian Beach, North Carolina, to Virgin Islands in the Caribbean, October 15-16. Principal forces involved were as follows:

USS INDEPENDENCE CVA-61

USS RANDOLPH CVA-15

USS OHAWA LHA-3

USS THETIS BAW (LPH-6)

10 destroyers

1 amphibious ship

1 submarine

1 mobile support ship

1 Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 1 Regimental Landing Team,

1 Composite Marine Aircraft Group,

plus supporting ships.

SWEEP AREA III. Joint Canadian and U. S. mine-sweeping exercise off Nova Scotia.

Beginning October 15, all aircraft and squadrons not required for air defense, reconnaissance and ASW surveillance were redeployed to Florida bases.

More than 40 ships got underway commencing on October 15 to carry out the scheduled PHIBTRILEX 61 Amphibious Brigade Landing Exercise. Surveillance of the shipping lanes was being carried out throughout the Caribbean area. The influx of an average of 10 ships per month, Soviet and Soviet-owned, loaded with military equipment and Soviet personnel, made it mandatory that surveillance flights be made over suspected missile installation sites in Cuba. Navy and Marine Corps air units were alerted into Southern Florida and Caribbean air stations to bolster air defense capability. All air and surface units of the Atlantic Fleet were placed in an increased readiness state and many were ordered to sea. Marine air and ground units were alerted for possible deployments.

The orders to increase the aerial surveillance of Cuba to confirm the presence of missile sites were first filled by F9U Crusader photographic planes flown by pilots of Navy Light Photographic Squadron 68 and Marine Corps Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 749, operating from bases in Florida. More than 81 sorties composed of from two to 10 aircraft totalled more than 100 hours of photographic surveillance.

Maritime surveillance was performed by PGV Neptunes, PGM Marlins, SSG Trackers, WW Warning Stars, and helicopters flying a total of more than 20,000 hours during the crisis. Approximately one-half of this total was flown by carrier-based aircraft (S2Fs and helicopters).

As aerial photo reconnaissance confirmed that Soviet offensive missile installations were in place and under construction in Cuba, the full mobile capabilities of the Navy-Marine Corps team were brought into play. Troops were loaded swiftly and units moved to attain a posture which would make possible any action ordered with a minimum reaction time.

On Sunday afternoon, October 21, President Kennedy received a final definitive report that MRBM and IRBM missile facilities were being installed, and that IL-28 1,000-mile range bombers were being assembled in Cuba.

October 22

The evacuation of dependents from Guantanamo was carried out. 197 were brought to Norfolk by air and approximately 2,800 were loaded aboard the USNS UPSHUR, USS DUXBURY BAY, USS WHALES and USS DESOTO COUNTY, scheduled to arrive in Norfolk Thursday, October 25.

The ready Marine Battalion Landing Team embarked in ships of PHIBRON 8 was landed in Guantanamo.

A Marine Force was airlifted from California to Guantanamo Bay by MATS and other Marines moved by surface craft.

One Marine Infantry Battalion from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, arrived in Guantanamo by air.

Battalion Landing Teams from Camp Lejeune were ordered to load-out in available amphibious lifts of PHIBRON 8 and 9 at Norfolk, Virginia, and Morehead City, North Carolina, to proceed to sea as soon as ready.

President Kennedy spoke to the nation on television and radio that evening.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara later announced that Admiral George W. Anderson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, had been designated Quarantine Representative for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and that Admiral Robert L. Dennison, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic, would be responsible for carrying out duties assigned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The force prepared to implement the quarantine was commanded by Vice Admiral Alfred S. Mads, USN, Commander Second Fleet, who was in the cruiser NEWPUMP LEWIS, having relieved Vice Admiral Taylor on October 21, at previously scheduled.

Supporting his flagship was the cruiser CANBERRA, the support carrier BOSEX, several squadrons of destroyers, and the requisite oilers, ammunition ships, etc. Admiral Ward's force had the designation of Task Force 136.

Task Force 135, commanded by Rear Admiral John T. Hayward, Commander Carrier Division Two, stood by ready to come to the defense of Guantanamo if needed. His flagship was the carrier ENTERPRISE, with more than 100 Navy and Marine aircraft on board. Aircraft types included F6U, F4B, A4L, A3C and AL-6.

Additional support was available in the carrier INDEPENDENCE and supporting ships of Carrier Division Six, commanded by Rear Admiral Robert J. Stroh. The INDEPENDENCE also carried over 100 aircraft including F6Us, F3Bs and WP2s.

All Atlantic Fleet mobile logistic forces were loaded and ordered to sea in support of fleet forces deployed.

Protection of shipping was undertaken in Florida Straits, Windward Passage and Yucatan Channel by naval patrol aircraft and destroyers.

October 23

Organization of American States approved United States plan of action, including participation in quarantine actions where feasible, in the establishment of a quarantine and in actions to require that Soviet offensive weapons be withdrawn from Cuba.

UNITAS III was cancelled and the U. S. Navy forces were ordered to the Atlantic to carry out tasks to be assigned.

President Kennedy issued the Quarantine Proclamation and set effective time as 10 A.M. (EDT), Wednesday, October 24, 1962.

Headquarters, FLIT-6 arrived at Guantanamo Bay.

October 24-

At 10 A.M. (EDT), the Quarantine of Cuba was established and carried out by the air and surface units of the United States Atlantic Fleet.

No significant events during first 24 hours. The aerial photographic reconnaissance flights continued.

Effective October 24, the air and surface units of the quarantine forces began to intensify their search for Cuba-bound merchant shipping that might carry prohibited material. This material included surface-to-surface missiles, bomber aircraft, bombs, air-to-surface rockets and guided missiles, warheads for any of the above weapons, mechanical or electronic equipment to support or operate those items, and any other classes of material designated by the Secretary of Defense.

The Marine Corps build-up afloat was completed by October 26, with officers and men embarked in amphibious ships of the Atlantic Fleet and additional forces enroute to the Atlantic from the Pacific in amphibious ships of the Pacific Fleet.

Shortly after 8 A.M. (EDT), October 25, the first Soviet ship, a tanker, DUCHAREST, was intercepted and her cargo checked locally by a U.S. Navy destroyer without boarding. It was determined that she was carrying oil, as stated by her master, and she was cleared to proceed.

At 7:50 A.M., (EDT), October 26, the Lebanese-flag, Soviet-chartered, freighter MARUCLA was intercepted and boarded by a party from the destroyers USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, Jr. and PIERCE. The boarding party returned to their respective ships at 10:20 A.M. (EDT) and reported as follows: "No incidents. No prohibited material in evidence. All papers in order. Obtained copy of manifest. Cargo 12 trucks deck loaded. All holds loaded to capacity. No passengers. MARUCLA cleared to proceed course 260, speed 9 knots to Havana via Providence Channel. Maintaining surveillance."

From October 24 until 6:45 P.M. (EST), November 20, 55 merchant ships passed through the quarantine after their cargoes had been determined to contain no prohibited material. No ships were diverted or found to carry any of the prohibited material.

The USS ENTERPRISE had returned to Norfolk, Virginia, from the Mediterranean on October 12 and got underway on October 18. Destroyer Squadron 15 (7 destroyers) had returned from the Mediterranean on October 3 and got underway on October 19. Amphibious Squadron 6 (5 ships) had returned from a five-month deployment on October 19 and got underway on October 21. The Marine Battalion Landing Team on normal rotation from deployment in the Mediterranean was ashore one day and then back-loaded into units of Amphibious Squadron 6 to deploy to the Caribbean.

From October 22 to November 25, Navy and Marine aircraft flew approximately 30,000 flight hours, covering a distance of more than six million miles; used five million gallons of aviation fuel; flew approximately 9,000 flights. Eight aircraft carriers involving more than 25,000 people have been part of the quarantine forces.

Ninety ships of the Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet, have steamed more than 780,000 miles in maintaining the quarantine barrier. Each one of the eight barriers steamed more than 10,000 miles.

Commander, Service Force, Atlantic Fleet, provided logistic support to an afloat population of more than 15,000 in 183 ships deployed over a 2100-mile front.

Admiral George W. Anderson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, stated November 9 that, "The presence of many Russian submarines in Caribbean and Atlantic waters provided perhaps the best opportunity since World War II for the U. S. naval antisubmarine warfare forces to exercise at their trade, to perfect their skills and manifest their capability to detect and follow submarines of another nation."

in tomorrow's newspaper and I'm sure you will see photographs of some of the submarines that came to the surface after the persistent surveillance of United States ships and United States aircraft.

Although not required by the President for the Cuban crisis, the civilian-sailors of the Naval Air Reserve provided an extraordinary volunteer backup force for the fleet, both in logistic support and in actual sea surveillance along the eastern seaboard and into the Atlantic.

Inspired by the President's message of October 22, Reservists from Naval Air activities at Cape Mayport, Massachusetts; New York; Lakenhurst, New Jersey; Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.; Norfolk, Virginia; Jacksonville, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Glenview, Illinois, have manned their "Wallops" patrol bombers, Grumman "Trackers" and Douglas transports for these voluntary operations. In so doing, they have logged more than 775 hours in logistic flights and some 325 hours of surveillance. More than 621,000 pounds of valuable cargo, and more than 1,000 passengers have been transported more than 115,000 miles.

These voluntary operations by the Naval Air Reservists included their sighting and reporting of 19 different foreign ships and underwater craft, including merchant ships, Russian trawlers and fishing factories, Russian merchant ships, a Russian electronic ship, and an "unfriendly" submarine.

Added to the airborne support, some 50 Wetland Warriors from across the land volunteered for special assignments in Atlantic Fleet Operational Control Centers where they served in an active duty training status perfecting their skills as Operational Control Watch Officers.

Under the command of Rear Admiral John A. Tyree, USN, CINCLANT established the Inter-American Combined Quarantine Force. This force included 2 Argentine destroyers, the ARA-ROSALEI and the ARA-ESPINA; 2 patrol frigates from the Dominican Republic, GREGORIA LUYFON F-10 and CARILAI PERE; GAMBANA F-10-1; and 1 destroyer from Venezuela, the GULLA and the RUEVA ESPANA. Arrangements for these combined operations were made in conformity with the further resolution adopted on November 5 by the Council of the Organization of American States acting provisionally as arranged in consultation.

President Kennedy announced during his press conference November 20 that the agreement by the Soviet Russians to remove the IL-28s from Cuba had enabled the United States to withdraw the quarantine imposed on October 24, 1962.

About 6:45 P.M. (EST), November 20, the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet was directed to discontinue operations and to return units to normal operations.

The Atlantic Fleet Commander also directed Commander Antishubmarine Force, Atlantic Fleet, Vice Admiral E. B. Taylor, USN, to be prepared to locate and photograph Soviet ships leaving Cuban ports with IL-28 aircraft aboard. The requirement is supposed to last for about 30 days in accordance with information

provided by the Soviet Union that the aircraft would be out of Cuba within 30 days.

At the same time, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic, Admiral Robert L. Dennison, directed Fleet Admiral John A. Tyrer, USN, to discontinue quarantine operations of the Inter-American Combined Quarantine Force and to make recommendations for training exercises and on port visits for the Argentine, Venezuelan and Dominican Republic forces involved.

As the orders went out to reinforce the quarantine forces, more than 60 ships of the Tenth Fleet which had clearly demonstrated its capability to respond quickly to their country's needs had an opportunity to be home for Thanksgiving. Other ships followed, many arriving during the following weekend.

Admiral Anderson pointed out that "the entire operation has been a magnificent testimonial not only to the senior leaders of our Government, but also to those commanders and commanding officers at lower levels who were so quickly able to move their troops -- large numbers of troops -- their ships -- many ships -- and their aircraft of many types in position to carry out lengthy, tedious and often very sensitive operations with a high degree of leadership, professional competence, courage and diplomatic skill."

* * * * *

U. S. AIR FORCE

Air Force Secretary Eugene W. Buckert and General Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, expressed their personal appreciation today to the thousands of Air Force men and women who personally contributed to the massive Air Force operations during the month-long Cuban crisis.

"General LeMay and I feel that the American people will wish to know of the dedicated efforts of the thousands of Air Force men and women who, under maximum security wraps, have quietly gone about their tremendously increased professional duties for this unique operation during the past month," Secretary Buckert said.

The following summarizes Air Force operations during the Cuban crisis:

Reconnaissance

An intensification of snugging into Cuba during August brought increased effort in U.S. intelligence activities. Aerial reconnaissance which had obtained the first conclusive evidence of the Soviet missile build-up on October 14 culminated in final photo confirmation on October 20 of ICGFM's in Cuba, as announced by the Department of Defense on October 22.

When the President announced the quarantine of Cuba on October 22, Strategic Air Command B-51's on airborne alert training flights and B-70's on training flights joined with the Navy to maintain a watch on the 2,000 ships which were in the Atlantic Ocean area. SACB bombers made hundreds of visual and photographic sightings and relayed this information and several thousand feet of aerial film to CINCPACFLT.

Movements

Movements of Air Force units began immediately after spotting of HCBM's on Cuba.

By October 21, Tactical Air Command had moved thousands of men, thousands of tons of equipment, and tactical fighter, reconnaissance, and troop carrier aircraft into the southeastern United States, mainly to Florida bases. This tactical force was operational as soon as the movements were completed.

Also on the weekend before the Presidential quarantine announcement the Strategic Air Command began dispersing aircraft. SAC also moved several bombers and tankers from Florida bases to other U.S. bases to make room for tactical aircraft.

Air Defense Command moved fighter interceptors and men into the Southeast to supplement its air defense forces in that area. All these moves were completed before the October 22 quarantine announcement.

Around 125 tons of air evacuation hospital equipment and 1,479 blood units were flown to Florida and pre-positioned.

Air Defense

During the four weeks of maximum crisis, Air Force fighter interceptors in the Florida area flew more than 2,300 individual fighter patrols, maintaining a 24-hour orbiting of several strategic points in the air off Florida.

The maximum force of NORAD fighter interceptors and anti-aircraft missiles was on 5 to 15-minute alert throughout the four weeks of maximum crisis.

Airborne and Ground Alert For Bombers

On October 22, Strategic Air Command began a massive airborne alert for its B-52 heavy bombers before the Presidential announcement. B-52's began 24-hour flights, and before each crew landed, another B-52 crew was airborne to take its place. At the same time the airborne alert was in operation, the remaining SAC bombers were on upgraded ground alert, ready to take off, combat ready, within 15 minutes from scramble notice.

The SAC bomber alert measure required some 21,000 drivers and airmen in combat crews to remain at their alert stations for a period of four weeks without let-up.

SAC intercontinental ballistic missile crews, also, including the armament and maintenance men, upgraded individual missile alerts to a maximum and required work schedules of more than 70 hours a week for all personnel involved.

In all, the upgraded SAC alerts directly affected 100,000 SAC aircraft and missile maintenance and armament personnel, 20,000 security police and 5,000 refueling specialists.

Airlift

Within 48 hours from notification, MATS airlifted a force of Marines from California to Guantanamo Bay. In all, TAC and MATS troop carrier aircraft moved more than 10,000 personnel and 8,000 tons of cargo to the Southeast and Cuba. MATS' part alone in this operation called for hundreds of transport flights, and immediately after those few days of activity MATS initiated a large scale airlift from Germany to India.

Reserve Call-up

On 12-hour notice June 14, 61, Air Force Reserve troop carrier aerial port squadrons, and reserve medical hospital personnel were called to active duty with twin-engine C-119 and C-123 troop carrier aircraft. They have remained at their home bases on standby alert or have flown training missions from the time of the call-up until their release from active duty began on November 23.

Miscellaneous

Tactical Air Command fighters flew more than 400 practice missions against simulated special targets in Florida during the early days of the crisis.

In all, the Air Force has flown some 85,000 hours in direct support of United States operations during the Cuban crisis.

E N E